

BLUES SIGN BRIAN

**Wycombe Wanderers 0,
Stevenage 0**

WYCOMBE Wanderers have found a new goalkeeper. Young Brian Stevenson, a student at Shoreditch College, impressed on his first outing for the Blues in Tuesday night's friendly against Stevenage and was signed on immediately after the game (writes Stuart Earp).

Although never fully stretched, the tall 'keeper gave a confident display for 90 minutes and his handling and positioning could not be faulted. His performance, and that of full-back Paul Griffiths, were two of the few bright spots in a dour struggle. I suppose it was on the cards that this match would end scoreless for Stevenage had been involved in no less than five goalless encounters before this one.

Stevenage play in the same league (Southern League, Division One) as Cheltenham, the Blues' F.A. Cup first round opponents. And if Wycombe are to reach the second round on November 23, they will have to improve considerably for Cheltenham have already beaten Stevenage 3-0 this term.

Stevenage centre-forward Dave Spillane missed a fine chance by lofting the ball high over the top after Stevenson had blocked Maloney's shot. This was one of several occasions when Wanderers' defence was caught square. Dave Bullock, trying out an ankle injury, had a particularly unhappy time and was indebted to the fine tackling and covering of Griffiths several times.

In the second half, Alexander sent a drive skidding past the far post after good work by Dylan Evans and Tony Horseman soon into the second half, but too often Stevenage's tight defence had the last word.

Best chance of the half came in the 87th minute. Howard Kennedy, a late substitution, cleverly back-heeled Horseman's corner to give Evans a clear shot but second-half goalkeeper Anscombe managed to scramble the ball away to maintain Stevenage's uneviable record of five 0-0 draws in their last six games.

WYCOMBE: B. Stevenson; P. Griffiths, K. Mead, D. Bullock, G. Hand; D. Alexander (sub. H. Kennedy, 70 mins.), G. Mackenzie, M. Hollifield; A. Horseman, D. Evans, S. Perrin, Sub. T. Reardon (not used).

STEVENAGE: N. Gervaux (sub. R. Anscombe, 45 mins.); H. Pratt, R. Dingwell, R. Hatch, K. Hull; J. Downes, D. Noble, S. Mahoney; G. Aslett, D. Spillane, P. Peterson (sub. M. Flood, 77 mins).

Approximate total attendance: